THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Some representations have been received in this regard. Increasing the frequency of 2815/2816 New Delhi-Puri Express has been examined but not found feasible on account of operational constraints.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Due to technical difficulties as AC 3-tier coaches are having air brake system whereas Puri Express is running with vacuum brake rakes.

Setting up of Terminal Station at Tala

4159. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps are being taken to set up a Terminal Station at Tala on the circular Railway track to operate EMU service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress of the work in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Proposal is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Running of Train Via Grand Chord

4160. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to run 2305/2306 via Grand Chord instead of main line;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that demands have been raised from different quarters to run this train via Grand Chord to save foreign exchange (fuel) and increase revenue;

(c) if so, the steps taken in this direction; and

(d) if not, the justification of running this train via main line after introduction of 2309/2310?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) 2309/2310 Rajdhani Express provides bi-weekly service between New Delhi and Patna via Lucknow and Varanasi.

[Translation]

Airstrips at Chakarbhata Airport in M.P.

4161. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to develop airstrips at the Chakarbhata airport of Bilaspur district in Madhya Pradesh to facilitate operation of flights;

(b) whether the Government also propose to equip it with full facilities;

(c) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon alongwith the details thereof;

(d) the time by which approval is likely to be accorded in this regard and the airstrip is proposed to be developed;

(e) whether some private companies had sent proposals to undertake operation of flights from the said airport;

(f) whether the said private companies were operating their flights from the said airport earlier; and

(g) if so, the reasons for discontinuation of flights at the said airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). The existing airstrip at Bilaspur airport is suitable for 50 seater aircraft. There is no proposal to upgrade this airstrip due to lack of traffic potential.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g). Do not arise.

[English]

Funds for Construction of Road Over Bridge at Rayagada

4162. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds provided by the Union Government and the Government of Orissa for construction of Road over-bridge at Rayagada town under South Eastern Railway so far, year-wise;

(b) whether the construction of the over-bridge has been completed but the road portion of the bridge is yet to be completed;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in opening the bridge for traffic; and

(d) the alternative a arrangement made by the Railway authorities for movement of general public by feet, rickshaw and cycles while replacing existing level crossing thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Funds provided by Railways year-wise are :

1990-91	Rs.	5.00 lakhs
1991-92	Rs.	5.00 Lakhs
1992-93	Rs.	196.00 Lakhs
1993-94	Rs.	63.86 Lakhs
1994-95	Rs	85.14 Lakhs
1995-96	Rs.	43.21 Lakhs
1996-97	Rs.	10.60 Lakhs

No information is available about funds provided by the State Govt. of Orissa.

(b) and (c). Railway portion of work is completed. Work on approaches and opening of Road Over bridge to traffic is done by State Govt.

(d) Footpath has been provided on the Road Over bridge for pedestrians. Vehicles have to use the Road Over Bridge.

Expenditure on Providing Facilities to Vaishnodevi Pilgrimage

4163. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government and the State of Jammu and Kashmir incur any expenditure on providing facilities for Vaishnodevi pilgrimage;

(b) if so, the expenditure incurred during each of the last three years; and

(c) the estimated number of pilgrims who benefited therefrom during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). The Department to Tourism, Govt. of India has provided financial assistance amonting to Rs. 37.83 lakhs during the last three years to the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir for development of tourists facilities at Vaishnodevi. In addition the State Govt. built a Yatrika at Katra at an expenditure of more than Rs. 1 crore for the use of pilgrims visiting Vaishnodevi.

(c) During the last three years 1,11,06,807 pilgrims visited Vaishnodevi.

Modernisation of Railway Stations

4164. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the funds earmarked to modernise the Railway Stations in Andhra Pradesh during the current financial year;

(b) the details of funds proposed to be spent on each railway station;

(c) the target fixed for achievement of modernisation of Railway Stations where works are in progress;

(d) whether the Guntur Railway Junction has been included for its modernisation during the current financial year;

(e) if so, the details of work proposed to be undertaken; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). Allocation of funds for modernisation of various railway stations are provided to the Railway Zones according to their requirements and no state-wise bifurcation of allocations are maintained. During the current year adequate funds are provided to Central, South Central and South Eastern Railways to undertake various passenger amenity works in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Works taken up are progressing as per schedule.

(d) to (f). Guntur Junction railway station has already been provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of traffic handled and therefore, there is no proposal at present.

Indian Manpower Lease Bill

4165. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a 'Indian Manpower Lease Bill' taking into consideration the need of highly qualified Indian professionals to execute various major and mega projects in India due to economic reforms; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New Railway Line

4166. SHRI RAMSAJEEVAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to include new railway line for which survey has already been completed from Sitapur to Bahraich in Budget for 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The survey report has been sent to the Planning Commission for their consideration.

(c) Does not arise.